

### Health Surveys in Different Industries

As an adjunct of the ongoing research programme, the Centre established an Epidemiology Wing in 1974 for identifying health problems in workers engaged in rural-based and small-scale industries. These surveys help to assess the health status of the working population in specific industries, and to unravel existing as well as hitherto undetected occupational diseases.

Epidemiological surveys have been carried out on workers engaged in processing hemp-fibre, benzanthrone, petroleum, textiles, heavy electricals, agate, chromium and nickel electroplating, and manganese welding.

### Occupational Health Clinic

An Outdoor Occupational Health Clinic is run by the Centre in the Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) Hospital at Kanpur, in cooperation with the Uttar Pradesh Directorate of Medical Health and Family welfare. The Clinic has been set up to examine suspected cases of occupational diseases of diverse varieties and intensity that are referred to them by various industries located in Kanpur.

### Data-bank on Toxic Chemicals

The Documentation Unit collects, stores, and disseminates, information on toxic and environmentally significant chemicals. The Centre has been designated by the Government of India as the National Correspondent of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC), which is sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).<sup>\*</sup> Data-sheets have been

<sup>\*</sup>See the account on the following pages.—Ed.

compiled on a few selected pesticides towards compiling a National Registry of Toxic Chemicals.

A library is also maintained which makes available extensive literature and documents in the area of industrial and environmental toxicology. The Centre brings out an Annual Report, a quarterly Industrial Toxicology Bulletin, and research monographs.

### Technical Aid and Consultancy: ITRC as a State Water Laboratory

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, India, has recognized ITRC as its State Water Laboratory in terms of Section 52 Sub-section (1) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974.

The Centre acts as consultant to a number of national and international agencies, research institutions, and Indian commercial enterprises, for advice on toxicological problems and in evolving standards and limits of exposure of materials which contain potentially toxic substances.

The Centre has been selected as a reference laboratory by the World Health Organization (WHO) for problems connected with harmful effects of pesticides. Scientists of the Centre have served on important committees and expert panels of WHO and UNEP in preparing technical reports on various matters connected with occupational health and toxic chemicals.

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## First 'Extinct' Arabian Oryx Born in the Wild

For the first time in more than ten years, an Arabian Oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) has been born in the wild. Conservationists are jubilant over the event which occurred only weeks after the release of a herd of ten Oryx into the desert of Central Oman—the first of the species to appear in the wild in over a decade.

The last fully wild Arabian Oryx was shot in 1972 not far from the reintroduction site. The auspicious birth marks another milestone in the 20-years-long Oryx reintroduction project. In 1962, ten years before the last Oryx was killed in the Middle East, conservationists captured a number of the animals which were shipped to the southwestern United States, where they formed a protected 'World Herd' which currently numbers more

than 150. It is from this herd that the first ten Oryx were reintroduced to Oman.

The Oryx project, initiated by IUCN in conjunction with the Fauna Preservation Society, and supported by WWF for the past twenty years, is part of a major effort to establish a large and well-managed conservation area in the Arabian peninsula. Meanwhile, Jordan is upgrading a site for a further WWF/IUCN-sponsored Oryx reintroduction programme in the Azraq desert which it is hoped will be similar to the one in Oman.

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## Our Faces are Red!

With the best will in the world, and care verging on the pernicky, it seems impossible to prevent an occasional error from creeping into the columns of our Journal. Alas, one such managed to slip in somehow after proof-checking, so that our eminent colleague Kenneth

Mellanby was featured as 'Mellbany' at the foot of his Guest Editorial, 'Population and Pollution', which appeared in our Autumn issue (Vol. 8, No. 3, 1981). Bibliographers please note—and our sincere apologies to Professor Mellanby.